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PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE ,TASMANIA SEPTEMBER 1985

INQUIRIES

Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made by telephoning Hobart (002) 209 450 (Mr Frank McCallum). For other inquiries, including copies of publications, telephone the Information Officer on Hobart (002)209 409.
The Tasmanian Office of the Bureau is located on the 3rd Floor of the Commonwealth Government Centre, 188 Collins Street, Hobart (G.P.O. Box 66A, Hobart, 7001).

MAIN FEATURES

- Strong growth has been recorded in the estimated number of employed persons, an increase of 11 200, between September 1984 and September 1985. This has occurred while the estimated number of persons unemployed has remained at about the same level. The estimated number of persons who have marginal attachment to the labour force has increased by 3 300 in this period while those persons without marginal attachment decreased by 9 000. This resulted in an overall decrease of 5 700 persons, recorded in the category 'Not in the Labour Force'.
- There were 22 700 persons (17%) not in the labour force but who had marginal attachment to the labour force.
- 84% of all persons who had marginal attachment to the labour force were women.
- Of all persons not in the labour force : 16% had never had a job; 22% left their last job to retire; 13% left to get married; 14% left because of pregnancy or to have children and 11% left because of ill health or injury.
- Of all persons not in the labour force : 60% were housewives or engaged in home duties; 12% attended an educational institution and 19% were retired or voluntarily inactive.
- Of all persons not in the labour force who stated that they wanted to work : 70% preferred part-time work; 78% of women preferred part-time work while 89% of married women preferred part-time work.

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Explanatory Notes

Introduction

1. The monthly Population Survey (which is described in The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)) comprises the monthly labour force survey and supplementary topics. For September 1985 a set of State specific tables was produced from this supplementary survey and forms the basis for this publication.

2. Of the respondents to the labour force survey, those who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked additional questions. This subset of respondents was asked about their labour force aspirations and, if appropriate, their reasons for not actively looking for work and their availability for work.

Scope

3. The scope of this supplementary survey was the same as that used for the labour force survey (described in full in The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)) except that it was restricted to persons not in the labour force.

Definitions

4. Persons not in the labour force are by definition those persons who do not meet the criteria that would enable them to be classified as being in the labour force. To be classified as being in the labour force, a person must be aged 15 or over and be either employed or unemployed.

5. Persons not in the labour force, therefore, include all persons aged 15 and over who are not employed, who want work but do not meet the criteria to be classified as unemployed; who do not want to work; or who, through incapacity or infirmity cannot work.

6. The criteria determining those in the labour force are based on actual activity (i.e. working or looking for work) during the survey week. The criteria associated with marginal attachment to the labour force, in particular the concepts of wanting to work, reasons for not actively looking for work and availability to start work, are more subjective and are not based on respondents' actual activity. Hence, the measurement of these criteria is affected by the respondents' own interpretation of the concepts used. Individual respondent's interpretation is affected by such factors as the respondent's work aspirations, as well as family, economic and other commitments.

7. Persons with marginal attachment to the labour force are those who were not in the labour force in the survey week, wanted to work and:

- (a) were actively looking for work but do not meet the criteria to be classified as unemployed; or
- (b) were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks.

8. Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work are those who:

- (a) in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week had taken active steps to find work but do not meet the criteria to be classified as unemployed; or
- (b) although claiming to have looked for work in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week, had not taken active steps to find work; or
- (c) in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week had not looked for work but in the survey answered 'yes' or 'maybe' to the question 'Even though you have not been looking for work would you like a full-time or part-time job?'

9. Discouraged jobseekers are those persons with marginal attachment to the labour force who wanted to work and were available to start work within four weeks but whose main reason for not taking active steps to find work was that they believed they would not be able to find a job for any of the following reasons: considered to be too young or too old by employers; difficulties with language or ethnic background; lacked the necessary schooling, training, skills or experience; no jobs in their locality or line of work; or no jobs at all.

10. Active steps taken to find work comprise writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; answering a newspaper advertisement; checking factory or Commonwealth Employment Service notice-boards; being registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service; checking or registering with any other employment agency; advertising or tendering for work; and contacting friends or relatives.

11. A job is any paid employment, full-time or part-time lasting two weeks or more.

12. Unless otherwise stated, all characteristics referenced in this publication are as at the survey week.

13. Further definitions of labour force and demographic classifications appearing in this publication are given in The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0).

14. The various groups of persons either in the labour force or not in the labour force, including those marginally attached to the labour force, are shown schematically in the diagram on the following page.

Results of the survey

15. Estimates of persons not in the labour force are also published in The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0). However, more detailed information is contained in this publication.

16. Due to differences in the method of estimation used in this supplementary survey and that used in the Labour Force Survey, there are some small variations between estimates in this publication and those in the September issue of The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0).

17. The estimates in this publication refer to information collected in the survey month and, due to seasonal factors, may not be representative of other months of the year.

18. Results of similar surveys, which have been conducted each March and September since March 1979 and also in May 1977 and November 1975, have been given in previous issues of the Central Office publication.

19. It is proposed that this survey will next be conducted in March 1986.

Discontinuities in the series

20. New or amended concepts were introduced in the September 1983 survey, causing a break in series. These modifications included the addition of certain groups of persons excluded from previous Persons Not in the Labour Force surveys and several alterations to the order and wording of questions used in the survey. These modifications are fully described in the September 1985 issue of Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (6220.0).

Reliability of the estimates

21. Estimates in this publication are subject to two sources of error:

- (a) sampling error: since the estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. More information on this topic is given in Appendix A.
- (b) non-sampling error: inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in the coding and processing of data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

Standard errors of estimates are shown in Appendix A.

Related publications

22. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

Labour Force Statistics, Tasmania (6201.6)
 The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0), monthly (\$1.20, \$2.10 including postage)
 Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia (6222.0), annual
 Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Tasmania (6222.6), annual
 Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families (6224.0), annual
 Labour Force Experience, Australia, during the Year Ending February 1985, (6206.0)
 Underemployed Workers, Australia, May 1985 (6265.0)
 Persons not in the Labour Force, Australia (6220.0), twice-yearly
 Employment, Underemployment and Unemployment 1966-1983, Australia (6246.0) (\$1.70, \$2.40 including postage).

23. Because figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

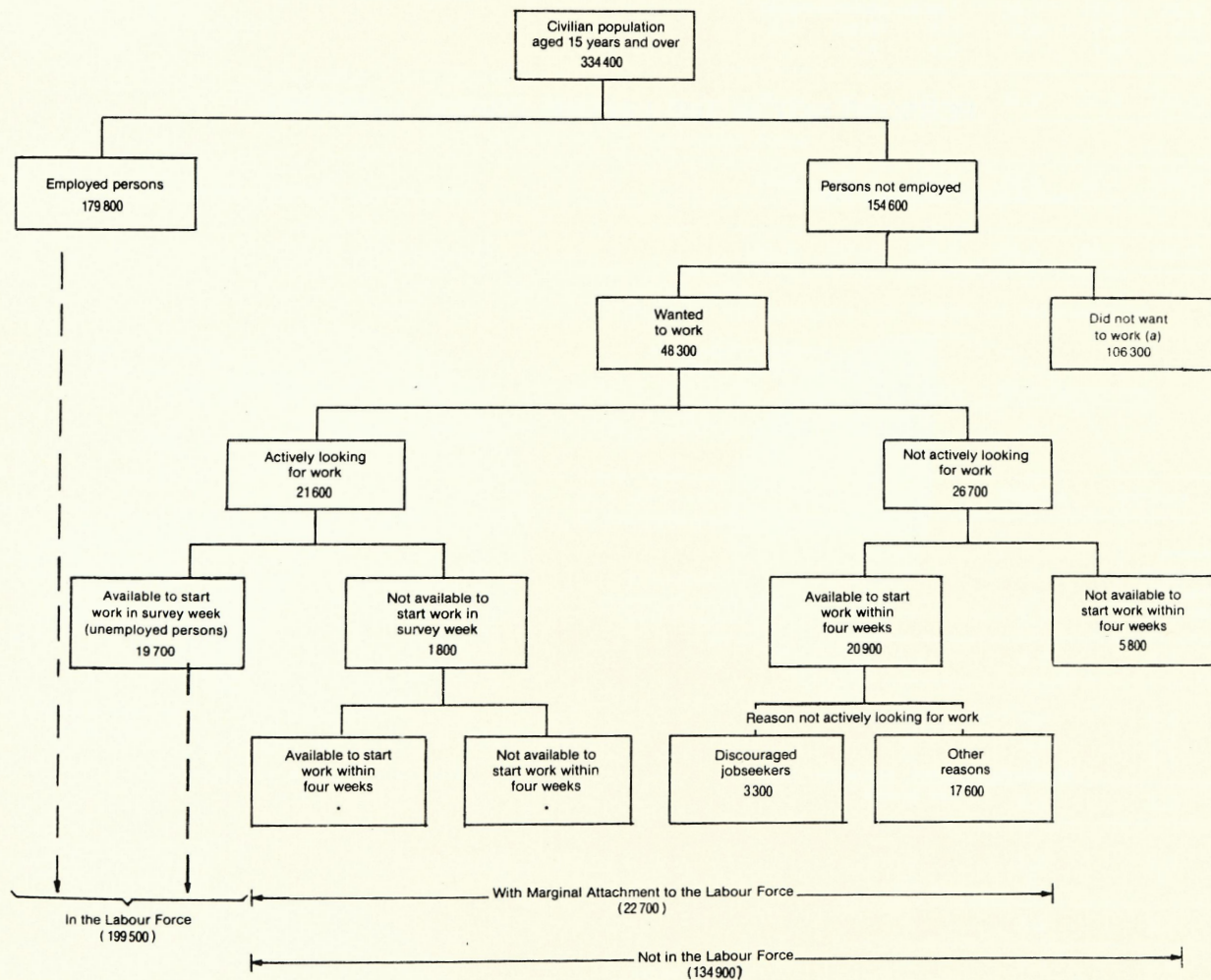
24. Further information about publications produced by the ABS are listed in the Catalogue of Publications (1101.0) which is available from any ABS Office, free of charge.

Symbols and other usages

* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See Appendix A.
 .. not applicable
 n.a. not available

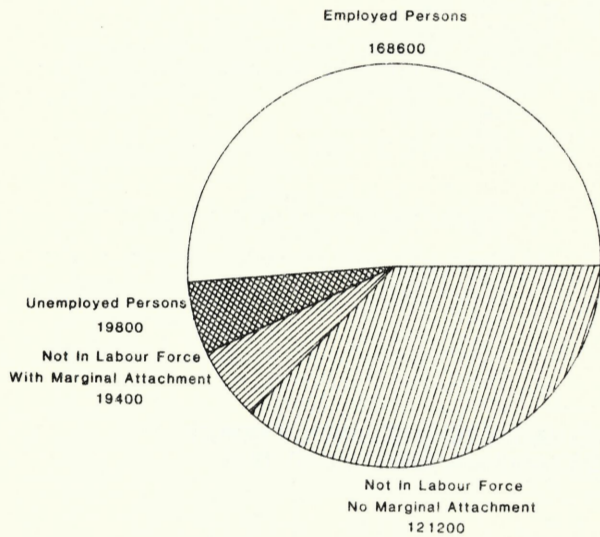
G.D. COCKING
 Deputy Commonwealth Statistician
 and
 Government Statistician of Tasmania

RELATIONSHIP OF PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE TO PERSONS IN OR NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, TASMANIA, SEPTEMBER 1985

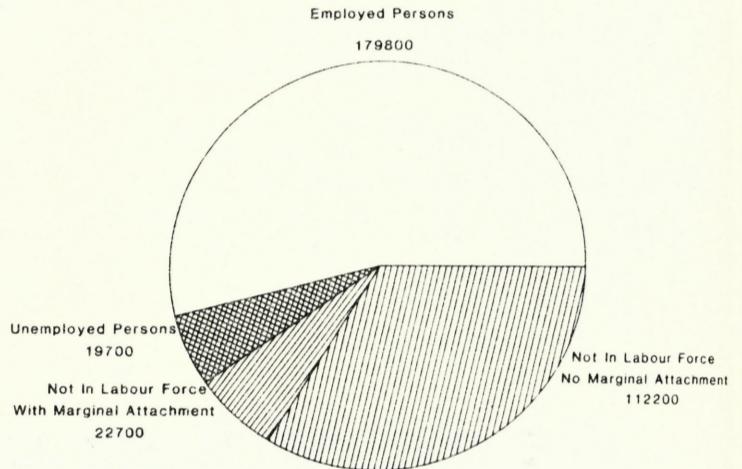


LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS, TASMANIA

LABOUR FORCE STATUS, SEPTEMBER 1984



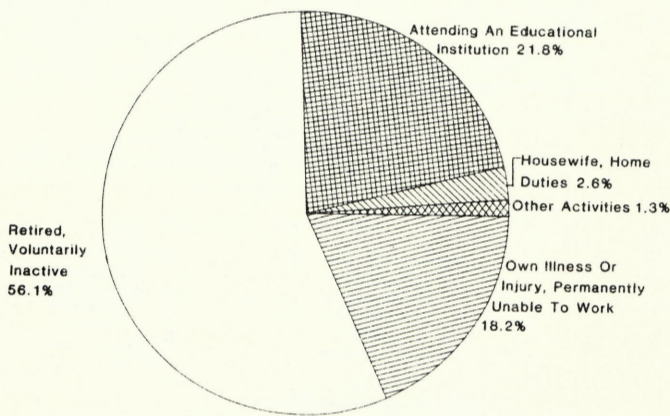
LABOUR FORCE STATUS, SEPTEMBER 1985



PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, TASMANIA

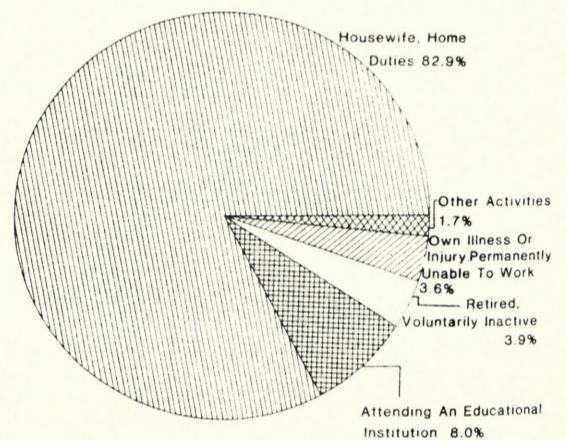
Main Activity, September 1985

Males

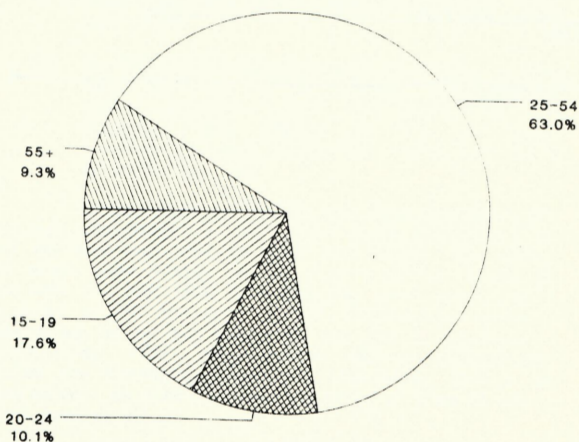


Main Activity, September 1985

Females



Marginally Attached, September 1985
Age Groups



Marginally Attached, September 1985
Sex

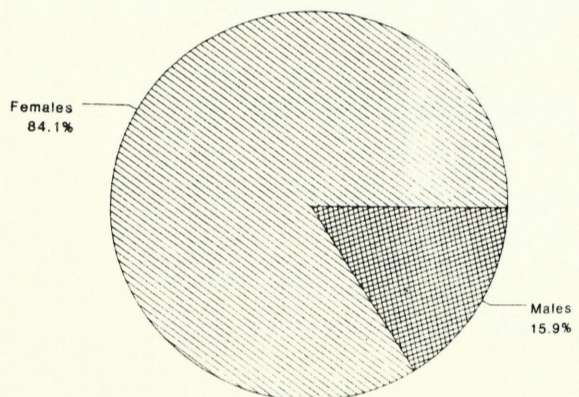


TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: LABOUR FORCE STATUS,
SEPTEMBER 1984 AND 1985: TASMANIA
('000)

Labour Force Status	1984			1985		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Labour force						
Employed	108.4	60.2	168.6	113.3	66.5	179.8
Unemployed (a)	13.1	6.8	19.8	12.9	7.3	19.7
Total in labour force	121.5	66.9	188.4	125.7	73.7	199.5
Persons not in the labour force with marginal attachment						
Wanted to work and available to start within four weeks						
Were actively looking for work	*	*	*	*	*	*
Were not actively looking for work						
Discouraged job seekers	*	2.8	3.6	*	2.8	3.3
Not actively looking for other reasons	2.2	12.2	14.4	2.3	15.3	17.6
Were actively looking for work but not available to start within four weeks	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total persons not in the labour force but with marginal attachment	3.9	15.5	19.4	3.6	19.1	22.7
Persons not in the labour force without marginal attachment						
Wanted to work but not actively looking for work and not available to start within four weeks	1.7	5.3	7.0	1.5	4.3	5.8
Did not want to work	30.5	75.2	105.7	28.7	68.2	96.9
Permanently unable to work	2.7	1.6	4.3	3.6	2.6	6.2
Institutionalised (b)	1.7	2.5	4.2	*	1.9	3.2
Total persons not in the labour force without marginal attachment	36.5	84.6	121.2	35.2	77.0	112.2
Total persons not in the labour force						
Not in the labour force	40.4	100.2	140.6	38.8	96.1	134.9
Total civilian population aged 15 years and over	161.9	167.1	328.9	164.5	169.9	334.4

(a) Actively looking for work and available to start in the survey week.

(b) Includes students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails, etc.

TABLE 2. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE : MAIN REASON FOR
NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, SEPTEMBER 1985 : TASMANIA
('000)

Marginally attached to the labour force -	Males	Females	Persons
Main reason for not actively looking for work			
Personal reasons			
Own health, disability or pregnancy	*	*	1.5
Attending an educational institution	*	*	(a) 2.3
Other reasons (b)	*	2.7	2.7
Total	1.6	4.9	6.5
Family reasons			
Unable to find suitable child care	*	3.0	3.0
Children too young, preferred to look after children	*	3.8	3.8
Other reasons (c)	*	*	1.5
Total	*	8.1	8.3
Discouraged job seekers			
No jobs in locality or line of work, no jobs at all	*	1.8	2.0
Other reasons (d)	*	*	*
Total	*	2.8	3.3
Other reasons (e)	*	2.3	2.8
Total main reason for not actively looking for work	2.8	18.2	20.9
Were actively looking for work but not available to start in the survey week	*	*	1.8
Total with marginal attachment to the labour force	3.6	19.1	22.7

(a) Of this total, 2 000 were in the 15-19 age group.

(b) Includes had no need to work; give others a chance; welfare payments, pension may be affected; moved house, holidays.

(c) Includes ill health of other than self; other family considerations.

(d) Includes considered too young or too old by employers; difficulties with language or ethnic background; lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience.

(e) Includes had a job to go to; no jobs in suitable hours; did not know; not asked.

TABLE 3. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE (a) : AGE GROUP, SEPTEMBER 1985 : TASMANIA
('000)

Age group (years)	Males	Females	Persons
15-19	6.7	7.4	14.1
20-24	1.7	5.8	7.5
25-54	4.0	40.0	44.1
55-64	7.5	15.6	23.2
65 and over	17.5	25.4	42.9
Total	37.5	94.2	131.7

(a) Excludes students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails etc.

TABLE 4. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE (a) : FAMILY STATUS, SEPTEMBER 1985, TASMANIA
('000)

Family status	Males	Females	Persons
Member of a family	29.6	76.0	105.6
Husband and wife			
with children aged 0-14 present	2.3	27.6	29.8
without children aged 0-14 present	18.3	29.7	47.9
Not married family head			
with children aged 0-14 present	*	5.6	5.7
without children aged 0-14 present	*	3.7	4.3
Child of family head	7.3	7.2	14.5
Other relative of family head	*	2.3	3.3
Not a member of a family	6.4	15.8	22.2
Living alone	4.5	14.8	19.3
Not living alone	1.9	*	2.9
Not family coded	1.5	2.4	3.9
Total	37.5	94.2	131.7

(a) Excludes students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails etc.

TABLE 5. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE (a) : OCCUPATION IN LAST JOB, SEPTEMBER 1985, TASMANIA
('000)

Occupation in last job	Males	Females	Persons
Last job less than 20 years ago			
Professional, technical etc.	2.1	6.0	8.1
Administrative, executive and managerial	1.9	*	2.4
Clerical	2.5	13.8	16.3
Sales	*	9.6	10.7
Farmers, fisherpersons and timbergetters	3.4	2.3	5.7
Transport and communication	2.1	1.2	3.3
Trades and production - process workers and			
labourers n.e.c., and miners and quarry workers	13.5	6.8	20.3
Service, sport and recreation	*	15.9	17.0
Total	27.8	56.1	83.8
Last job 20 or more years ago	2.5	24.0	26.5
Had never had a job	7.2	14.2	21.3
Total	37.5	94.2	131.7

(a) Excludes students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails etc.

TABLE 6. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE (a) : REASON FOR LEAVING LAST JOB, SEPTEMBER 1985, TASMANIA
('000)

Reason for leaving last job	Males	Females	Persons
Retrenched, made redundant, last job		4.7	6.1
Seasonal or temporary job	3.4	7.8	8.7
Returned to studies		*	1.5
Retired, did not want to work any longer	14.5	14.4	28.9
Own ill health or injury	10.1	4.8	14.9
To get married	*	17.3	17.4
Pregnancy, to have children	*	18.1	18.1
To look after family, house or someone else	*	3.9	4.3
Travelled, moved house, spouse transferred	*	4.0	4.4
Sold business, farm	*	2.0	2.7
Other reasons	*	2.7	3.4
Had never had a job	7.2	14.2	21.3
Total	37.5	94.2	131.7

(a) Excludes students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails etc.

TABLE 7. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE (a) : TIME SINCE LAST JOB, SEPTEMBER 1985: TASMANIA
('000)

Time since last job	Males	Females	Persons
Had had a job			
Under 12 months	3.5	8.3	11.7
1 and under 3 years	4.4	8.3	12.7
3 and under 10 years	13.6	23.0	36.6
10 years or more	8.8	40.5	49.3
Had never had a job	7.2	14.2	21.3
Total	37.5	94.2	131.7

(a) Excludes students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails etc.

TABLE 8. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE (a) : WHETHER HAD LOOKED FOR WORK IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, SEPTEMBER 1985: TASMANIA
('000)

Whether had looked for work in the last 12 months	Males	Females	Persons
Had not looked	35.3	89.6	124.9
Had looked	2.1	4.6	6.7
Total	37.5	94.2	131.7

(a) Excludes students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails etc.

TABLE 9. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE (a) : MAIN ACTIVITY, SEPTEMBER 1985: TASMANIA
('000)

Main Activity	Males	Females	Persons
Housewife, home duties	*	78.1	79.1
Attending an educational institution	8.1	7.5	15.6
Retired, voluntarily inactive	21.0	3.7	24.7
Own ill health, injury; permanently unable to work	6.8	3.4	10.2
Other (b)	*	1.5	2.0
Total	37.5	94.2	131.7

(a) Excludes students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails etc.

(b) Includes unpaid leave; worked in unpaid voluntary job.

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TABLE 10. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANTED TO WORK: INTENTION TO LOOK FOR WORK
IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS AND TYPE OF WORK PREFERRED, SEPTEMBER 1985: TASMANIA
('000)

	Males	Females	Persons
Intention to look for work in the next 12 months			
Intended to look	2.0	6.5	8.5
Might look	*	5.0	5.5
Would not look	1.5	8.4	9.9
Did not know	*	1.5	1.6
Not asked (a)	*	2.0	3.0
Total	5.1	23.4	28.5
Type of work preferred			
Full-time	3.4	4.5	7.9
Part-time	1.7	(b)18.2	19.9
No preference	*	*	*
Total	5.1	23.4	28.5

- (a) Not asked comprises persons who had a job to go to, persons who took active steps to find work and persons who had a job but, to the end of the survey week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.
- (b) Of this total, 13 400 were married females.

APPENDIX A: STANDARD ERROR

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: sampling error and non-sampling error. The sampling error is a measure of the variability that occurs by chance because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the surveys. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. The standard error can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate, and this is known as the relative standard error.

Standard Errors

Published estimate	Standard error of the estimate	Published estimate	Standard error of the estimate
1 500	360	4 500	570
1 800	390	5 000	600
2 000	400	6 000	640
2 500	450	10 000	780
3 000	480	20 000	1 000
3 500	510	50 000	1 400
4 000	540	100 000	1 700
		200 000	2 100